

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1 – 12 (Cancelled)

Please add the following new claims:

13. (new) A method for manufacturing a hydrogen absorbing alloy having a CaCu_5 type crystal structure in its principal phase, comprising:
forming a melt of elemental components selected to form a hydrogen absorbing alloy;
and
adding a Mg source material to said melt in an amount of 0.1 to 1.0% by weight based on the entire weight of the hydrogen absorbing alloy.
14. (new) A method for manufacturing a hydrogen absorbing alloy according to claim 13, wherein said melt comprises Ni and Co; and wherein the step of adding a Mg source material to said melt occurs after said melt forming step.
15. (new) A method for manufacturing a hydrogen absorbing alloy according to claim 14, wherein the Mg source material is selected from the group consisting of metallic Mg and Mg alloy with a melting point of 650°C or higher.